

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical scanning apparatus includes a radiation source that emits a radiation beam, a rotating first prism that deflects the emitted beam, a first lens that projects the deflected emitted beam onto a scene to be scanned, a second lens that receives a reflected beam arising as a reflection of the emitted beam from the scene and projects the reflected beam onto a rotating second prism, which deflects the reflected beam onto a photodetector. The first and second prisms are respectively rigidly mounted on or connected to a common rotatable drive axle, preferably on two opposite ends of the drive axle, which is preferably a rotor shaft of a drive motor. Thereby, the rotation of the two deflection prisms is positively and precisely synchronized, and the overall apparatus is compact, simple and robust. This apparatus is suitable for use in an optical distance radar system for a motor vehicle.